

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSC-01 DHA-02 ORM-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W
-----121604Z 018827 /46

R 121115Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9441
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PK, PINT, PGOV
SUBJ: NEW OPPOSITION PARTY, PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE

1. LEADERS OF MOST OF PAKISTAN'S OPPOSITION PARTIES
CONCLUDED THEIR MEETING IN LAHORE ON JANUARY 11 WITH A PRESS
CONFERENCE IN WHICH UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT SECRETARY-
GENERAL, PROFESSOR GHAFOR AHMED, ANNOUNCED THAT ALL NINE
OF PAKISTAN'S MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTIES -- THE PAKISTAN
DEMOCRATIC PARTY, TEHRIK-I-ISTIQALAL, JAMIAT-I-ULEMA-I-
PAKISTAN, JAMIAT-UL-ULEMA-I-ISLAMAL ALL JAMMU AND KASHMIR

MUSLIM CONFERENCE, KHAKSAR TEHRIK, NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY,
JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI, AND PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAUGE -- HAVE DECIDED
TO FORM THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE PARTY (PNA).
CONSTITUENT PARTIES OF PNA WILL OFFER JOINT CANDIDATES
DURING THE COMING NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS AND
WILL CONTEST THE ELECTIONS AS A SINGLE PARTY. PLANS CALL
FOR THE PARTY TO BECOME PERMANENT, RATHER THAN TO VANISH
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AFTER THE ELECTIONS. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF A PARTY PLATFORM.

2. THE PNA WILL SOON HAVE A CENTRAL PARLIAMENTARY BOARD
AS WELL AS A PARLIAMENTARY BOARD FOR EACH PROVINCE. THE
CENTRAL BOARD WILL CONSIST OF HEADS OF THE NINE AFFILIATING
PARTIES AND WILL RECOMMEND CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL AND
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY SEATS. A CENTRAL BOARD HAS ALREADY

BEEN ESTABLISHED TO GIVE FINAL DECISIONS IN CASE OF DISPUTE OVER AWARD OF TICKETS. THE CENTRAL BOARD WILL ANNOUNCE THE NAMES OF PARTY OFFICERS AFTER ITS FIRST MEETING JANUARY 16 AT MUSLIM LEAGUE HOUSE, LAHORE.

3. AT THE SAME PRESS CONFERENCE TI LEADER ASGHAR KHAN ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF TWO COMMITTEES, ONE TO DRAW UP A JOINT MANIFESTO AND THE OTHER TO SUPERVISE ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS. ASAHAR KHAN ALSO SAID THAT FOR THE TIME BEING NO ONE HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO HEAD THE NEW PARTY, BUT HE EXPECTS A UNANIMOUS DECISION LATER.

4. PROFESSOR GHAFUOR THEN READ A LONG JOINT STATEMENT THAT WAS LARGELY A REITERATION OF STANDARD OPPOSITION CATALOG OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT PPP REGIME.

5. ABOVE ACCOUNT IS FROM URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT, WHICH GAVE FULLEST COVERAGE OF PRESS CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO SOURCE WHO ATTENDED CONFERENCE, NEW PARTY HAS TWO OBJECTIVES: (A) TO PUT UP SUFFICIENT ELECTION CONTEST TO FORCE PRIME MINISTER TO ENGAGE IN "DIRTY TRICKS" AND THEREBY EXPOSE HIMSELF TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION; AND (B) PROVIDE PAKISTAN FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH AN EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION BY GUARANTEEING THAT ALL OPPOSITION CANDIDATES ELECTED WILL BELONG TO SAME PARTY AND CAN ACT AS BLOC WITHIN NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES. SOURCE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT IDENTITIES OF INDIVIDUAL CONSTITUENT PARTIES WILL CONTINUE, AND THAT NEW PARTY IS ESSENTIALLY CONVENIENT VEHICLE FOR USE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOUNTING SERIOUS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST CURRENT REGIME. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS AND WILL COMMENT FURTHER AFTER RETURN TO LAHORE OF EMBASSY AND CONGEN POLITICAL OFFICERS NOW ON FIELD TRIP IN PUNJAB DISTRICTS. BYROADE

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